



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 3RD NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESEARCHERS' FORUM

University of Adelaide, South Australia
Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June, 2013

An Australian Government Initiative





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Preface

The Local Government Researchers' Forum held in Adelaide in June 2013 was the third in a series of national research forums convened by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG). As with previous forums it was designed to provide a platform for university researchers, policy makers and practitioners to present and discuss new research and perspectives on issues facing local government.

With the support of the University of Technology, Sydney ePress, ACELG is pleased to be able to publish a selection of the peer-reviewed papers presented at the forum. These proceedings contain papers which reflect the key themes of the forum, including workforce development, local demographics, climate change, regional local government, planning and community wellbeing, local government reform and local innovation.

ACELG recognises that there is a great need to build the knowledge base of local government, and for practitioners to be actively involved in that process. A feature of the 2013 forum was the increased involvement of local government practitioners from around the country. It is very pleasing that a number of their contributions are included in this publication (close to half of the papers), reflecting the diversity of disciplines that contribute to local government.

We thank the Local Government Association of South Australia for partnering with ACELG in hosting the event, and members of the ACELG Research Advisory Committee for their generous contribution in helping shape the program, in reviewing and selecting abstracts, and in facilitating forum sessions.

Finally, we thank all the contributors and the reviewers for their commitment to ensuring the high quality of the papers included in these proceedings. It takes considerable time and effort by all involved to compile such a volume, however we recognise the benefit of making these papers accessible to a wide readership and the contribution they will make toward the growing body of local government research.

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